

**“Alert Flags for Data Cleaning and Data Analysis”****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**[0075]** A data structure and methods for generating and using the data structure which contains cleaning attribute flags for each field of a database record which has  
5 been modified by a data cleaning operation. The flags may be used to determine if a pattern, cluster or trend identified during data mining of the cleaned data is likely to have been influenced by the data cleaning process, especially to a degree which leads to identification of false trends, patterns, or clusters.